

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1383 - SB 1650

April 3, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the district attorney general to include in the current report on child protective teams the status and progress of the teams in the district and include any recommendations for enhancement of the child sexual abuse plan and program. In each district where there is a child advocacy center, the district attorney general must report on the number of forensic interviewers working for the child advocacy center; the number of child advocacy centers in each judicial district and the number of child sexual abuse investigations handled by each child advocacy center; and any obstacles to interviewing children who are sexually abused and any recommendations to improve the interviewing process. Requires a forensic interviewer to interview the child when working for a child advocacy center. If the forensic interviewer believes the child has been sexually abused but the team does not agree, the Department of Children's Services (DCS) must proceed as if the abuse is substantiated. Requires at least one of the team members commencing the initial investigation of a child abuse allegation to be a properly trained law enforcement officer with countywide jurisdiction from the county where the child resides or where the alleged offense occurred.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$102,300/One-Time
\$3,511,700/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- According to the District Attorneys General Conference, each judicial district will need an additional support staff position to process the required data. The 31 additional positions will result in an increase in recurring expenditures of \$1,513,333 which includes salaries (\$1,056,480), benefits (\$359,203), travel (\$15,500), professional services (\$10,850), supplies (\$15,500), and rentals (\$55,800). There will also be one-time equipment costs of \$102,300.
- According to the Department of Children's Services, there are 12,500 sex abuse investigations a year. DCS estimates that each forensic interviewer could handle approximately 30 investigations per month resulting in the need to hire 35 (12,500/12/30) forensic interviewers.

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- The 35 forensic interviewer positions will result in an increase in expenditures of \$1,998,360 which includes salaries (\$1,204,000), benefits (\$409,360), and travel, supplies, administrative costs, and office space (\$385,000).

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml